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Batik Goes Modern . . .

By Elizabeth Flynn

BATIK, while a comparatively new method of decorating textiles in the United States, has been used for several thousand years in the Eastern world. Today modern effects may be obtained at the expense of a little time and effort, and much enjoyment may be gained by the worker.

Java is probably the best known of all countries for its batik work. Javanese batik is made on calico-like material. Ordinary calico is imported from Europe and after special treatment is made very soft and unlike the original cloth. The designs, which are inspired from nature, are produced almost entirely by a wax resist. The colors used most frequently are orange, indigo blue and brown. The colors are very fast, since the material which has been decorated is used almost entirely for clothing, and the Javanese are very fond of being in the water and out in the sunlight.

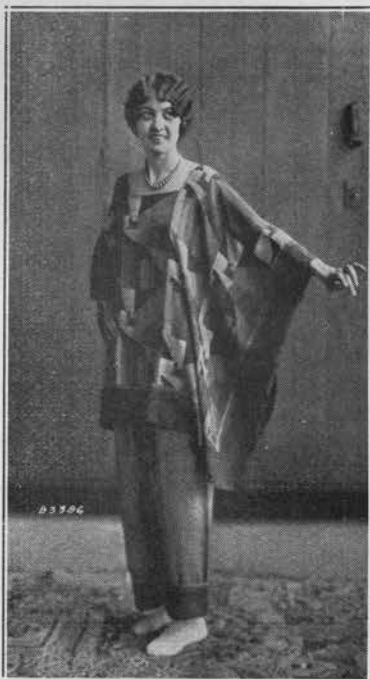
Batik was introduced into the United States by the Dutch about fifteen years ago and has become a very popular method of decorating textile fabrics. Wall hangings, curtains and various articles of wearing apparel are decorated most frequently.

Almost any kind of material can be used for batik, but silk and wool dye more easily than cotton or linen.

WHEN making a piece of batik it is often wise to sketch the design in water colors to get the effect in colors. The design may be very simple, either original or traced from an attractive pattern. It is drawn onto the material and the resist wax applied with a brush to the part of the design which the worker does not wish to dye. Beeswax or batik wax may be used. The wax should be heated hot enough to spread, but not hot enough to run. Make sure the wax has penetrated the material or the dye may be absorbed from the wrong side of the cloth.

Stretch the material tightly on a frame before you begin to wax. There is less danger of dropping wax on the material or of having the wax harden too soon, if the wax is placed on the same side of the worker as the hand with which she is applying the wax. If a drop of wax is accidentally dropped on the material, be sure to remove it before the material is dyed or the design may be spoiled. To remove the wax from a spot or part of a design, place the material over an absorbent pad and wet the spot with gasoline, benzene or carboline. Rub gently and continue wetting until the wax is removed.

When the wax which has been applied



Batik Adds Charm to This Negligee

is cold, wet the material thoroughly and put it into the dye-bath. Do not attempt

to squeeze the water from the cloth or the wax will be broken and the dye will penetrate the fibers, giving a "crackled" effect. Dry the material between newspapers or in the open air, and if more than two colors are desired, wax another part of the design and dye again, remembering that complements or near complements if applied over each other will give a gray or black.

The requirements for good batik dyes are:

1. Must be easily applied.
2. Must be used cold since wax melts at 128 degrees F. or 60 degrees C.
3. Color must be sufficiently fast not to be changed in removing the wax.
4. Colors must not fade in the sun or light.

SEVERAL dippings in a weak dye will give a better color than one dipping in a strong solution. Keep the material moving gently in order to secure an even color. Ammonia or washing soda will remove the dye stains from the hands.

Remove the wax after the batik is finished by placing the cloth between newspapers and pressing with a hot iron, or by rolling the material in brown paper and steaming over a teakettle. The latter process helps to set the dye. If wax still remains in the cloth after either of these processes, remove it by dipping the material in gasoline, benzene or some commercial wax remover.

K.S.A.C. Greeks Cut Expenses...

By Pearl Rock

THERE is always something of interest for the home economist to discover when she goes visiting. Miss Ruth Lusby, head of the Institutional Administration Department at Iowa State, found some interesting neighbors when visiting recently at the Kansas State Agricultural College, Manhattan, Kan.

Miss Lusby was guest of Mrs. Besie Brooks West, head of the department of institutional economics, and occupied the guest suite at Yanzile Hall, the one dormitory for women. The building is three years old, has a capacity of 130 girls, and is under the direction of the Institutional Economics Department. This department also directs the College Commons which is housed in a separate building and includes a cafeteria serving 800 meals a day, a small tea room, a dining room and a number of special banquet rooms on the upper floor.

In the evenings one wing of the dining room is converted into a tea room

patronized by faculty and guests, where girls majoring in institutional economics plan, prepare and serve a special dinner for 50 cents a plate.

All departments of the College Commons are used as laboratories. At the present time the institutional students are making a waste study on vegetables.

An interesting project is being carried out by a graduate student in institutional economics in which she is working in a fraternity and a sorority in connection with the college, taking charge of the planning, buying, and employment of help, supervising food preparation and service and approving all bills for the house treasurer. In one house the cost has been reduced from 70 cents to 45 cents per person, and a dietary study shows that the food is superior in quality and nutritive value under the new management. This piece of work was started in September, 1929, and is being continued this year. Other groups have asked to join, but could not be accepted.